GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2484
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
DRINKING WATER RESOURCES
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the renovation of the conventional drinking water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this scheme is likely to be helpful in ensuring the supply of drinking water in the villages of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a & (b): Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The State Governments take up schemes/ projects for providing drinking water from their own resources. Government of India supplements their efforts by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Rural Drinking Water component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). Powers to plan, approve and implement schemes/ projects under these programmes have been delegated to the States. Provision for taking up projects/ schemes for sustainability of sources has been made under Sub-Mission of ARWSP and Rural Drinking Water component of PMGY. Up to 20% of ARWSP funds can be spent by the State Governments on schemes / projects relating to tackling of quality problem and sustainability of sources under Sub-Mission. Further, last year (2000-2001) States have been asked to earmark 25% of the funds earmarked for Sub-Mission activities, inter-alia, which also includes traditional ! rain w ater harvesting structures under ARWSP for taking up schemes/ projects relating to sustainability of sources. Further, under PMGY - Rural Drinking Water, 25% of the allocation for the component are to be utilised by the respective States/ UTs on projects/ schemes for water conservation, rain water harvesting, groundwater recharge and sustainability of the drinking water sources in respect of DDP/ DPAP areas, over-exploited dark/ grey blocks and other water stress/ drought affected areas. Guidelines for Implementation of Schemes and Projects on Sustainability under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water have also been issued under which provision for taking up restoration, revival, revitalization and up-gradation of existing/ traditional rain water harvesting structures has been made.

(c): With the implementation of projects as per the above guidelines/ provisions, it is expected that availability of drinking water will improve especially in drought affected and drinking water scarcity areas.